

How do they stack up?

NetApp AFF A-Series vs. Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL

When IT is front and center, fueling every aspect of your business, you shouldn't have to make data security and flexibility trade-offs to meet today's performance demands. NetApp® AFF A-Series all-flash arrays deliver the speed and responsiveness to power your most demanding enterprise applications. With unified storage that includes comprehensive security measures validated by the NSA,

industry-leading performance, and file, block, and object, Pure Storage simply can't keep pace. Discover why organizations that rely on high-performance applications to keep their business running choose NetApp AFF A-Series and trust that NetApp will deliver every time.

Speed you can quantify, service quality you can trust

The AFF A-Series offers extreme IOPS, ultralow latency, and powerful quality-of-service (QoS) options designed to meet your needs. For workloads ranging from enterprise applications like Oracle and SAP to artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), the AFF A-Series offers high-performance flash with a choice of array models to fit your budget and your real-world needs. After over six years on the market, Pure Storage still doesn't publish critical metrics that you deserve to know.

	NetApp AFF A-Series	Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL
IOPS	Up to 1.7M* per high-availability (HA) building block	Not published
Latency	~100 to 500µs	Not published
(QoS)	Multiple QoS options for both IOPS and bandwidth, including maximum, minimum, and self-scaling policies	Multitenancy only supports private cloud
Benchmarks	#1 in the SPECstorage Solution 2020 EDA Blended benchmark ¹	No performance benchmarks published

*AFF A900 HA system

The only data security strong enough for the NSA

With autonomous ransomware protection and advanced security features, NetApp AFF A-Series flash arrays proactively detect anomalous behavior and protect your data from both internal and external threats. Our solutions include 3-2-1 backup, application-aware backups, and administrator safeguards. NetApp offers encryption that passed the NSA's stringent CSfC requirements,² whereas Pure Storage falls short. If ransomware, hackers, or even malicious insiders strike, your data deserves better than just turning back time. Build real cyber resilience with NetApp.

	NetApp AFF A-Series	Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL
NSA-validated encryption	Yes	No
Real-time file system retention and WORM (write once, read many)	NetApp SnapLock® software provides compliance, regulatory, and corporate governance for active data.	No
Immutable snapshots with no back doors	SnapLock provides compliance, regulatory, and corporate governance for backup and disaster recovery requirements.	No
Ransomware detection	Multiple, real-time ransomware protection and detection methods help you recover data and regain control swiftly.	Only monitors data reduction changes. No actions taken.
Database- and application-coherent backups	The NetApp SnapCenter® software capability for database and application-aware NetApp Snapshot™ copies provide industry-leading data integrity for recovery.	No

Your data, your choice—one comprehensive data management platform

Although it built its marketing on simplicity, Pure still requires your data to operate in complicated silos. But you can eliminate complexity and step into the real simplicity of data management with NetApp ONTAP® software, the only environment that supports any workload or protocol, both on premises and in the cloud. No matter how you want to modernize your data infrastructure, the NetApp AFF A-Series enables you to create a unified data experience.

	NetApp AFF A-Series	Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL
Cluster support	Yes, providing seamless scale-out to 24 nodes and hundreds of petabytes of capacity	No clustering for capacity or performance expansion
Public cloud connectivity	Native connectivity with AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud	Limited
Complete unified storage	Block, file, and object	Block and file only

The only true cloud-connected storage

Cloud connectivity helps you more easily realize the benefits of hybrid cloud: achieving the right balance of resources on premises and in the cloud, simplifying infrastructure management and monitoring, controlling costs, and reducing risk. By tapping into your organization's committed cloud expenditure to enable these vital services, you can reduce your capex storage spending. NetApp can help your organization meet its cloud commitment goals and keep your ITOps team within budget. Pure lacks the critical capabilities that let you build out a hybrid multicloud environment with ease.

	NetApp AFF A-Series	Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL
Software-as-a-service control plane to discover, deploy, and manage storage and data on premises and in all three major clouds	Yes	No—requires purchase of additional marketplace products for AWS and Azure; no Google Cloud support
Backup to the cloud without requiring backup software, media servers, agents, and more	Yes	No
Tiering cold data to the cloud to improve efficiencies on premises	Yes	No tiering
Real-time protection against insider threats	Yes	No

Pack a punch with sustainable efficiency

Although the NetApp AFF A-Series delivers high-performance flash without compromises, we also give you the tools to build sustainable efficiency. Reduce costs and simplify operations with solutions such as cloud tiering and workload consolidation. And you'll get more mileage from your investments, because the AFF A-Series offers 10% greater storage efficiency than Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL, even before you apply efficiency technologies like deduplication and compression.

	NetApp AFF A-Series	Pure Storage FlashArray//X and //XL
Data tiering	Automated tiering on premises to hybrid flash, object storage, or the cloud	No
Workload consolidation	Block, file, and object on a single system	Block and file only
Efficient storage utilization: usable capacity	78%	67%

Fuel top performance with the flash innovator

With more than 30 years of innovation, NetApp leads the industry with close to \$1 billion invested each year in R&D. Pure simply can't keep pace. Take advantage of high-performance flash that's designed with your most demanding applications in mind. See what's possible with the flash innovation leader by exploring the NetApp AFF A-Series today.

A-Series page